

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04936 231249Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1315
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ECIN, BL
SUBJ: GOB AWARDS MERCEDES BENZ ONE COMPONENT OF ITS
ANDEAN PACT VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT

1. ON JUNE 9 THE GOB AWARDED MERCEDES BENZ THE DIESEL ENGINE AND
HEAVY-DUTY TRUCK ASSEMBLY COMPONENT OF BOLIVIA'S VEHICLE ASSEMBLY
ASSIGNMENT UNDER ANDEAN PACT DECISION 120. ALSO ON JUNE 9, THE
GOB POSTPONED, FOR 15 DAYS, ITS DECISION ON THE LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS,
GASOLINE-ENGINE, AND DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION PORTION OF
ITS ANDEAN PACT VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT. CHRYSLER IS THE ONLY U.S.
COMPANY REMAINING UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. MERCEDES BENZ WILL SHARE OWNERSHIP OF THE NEW MANUFACTURING
PLANT WHICH IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN COCHABAMBA WITH COFADENA,
THE ARMED FORCES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, WHICH WILL OWN 51 PERCENT OF
THE JOINT VENTURE. THE FIRST VEHICLE, WHICH WILL BE ASSEMBLED FROM
SEMI-KNOCKED DOWN KITS, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED JULY 20, 1978.
TRUCK PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO REACH 100 UNITS IN AUGUST, 1978
AND 6,000 UNITS BY 1982. RENAULT, EBRO, AND CHRYSLER WERE THE
OTHER FINALIST COMPANIES WHOSE PROPOSALS WERE BEING CONSIDERED
BY THE GOB FOR THIS HEAVY VEHICLE, DIESEL ENGINE PLANT.

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3. CHRYSLER AND RENAULT ARE THE ONLY FIRMS BEING CONSIDERED
BY THE GOB FOR THE LIGHTER VEHICLES AND GASOLINE ENGINE
MANUFACTURING PLANT. DURING THE 15-DAY POSTPONEMENT OF THE
DECISION ON THIS CATEGORY, GOB REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT
CHRYSLER PLANTS IN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA AND THE RENAULT
FACTORY IN FRANCE.
BOEKER

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